

# The Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

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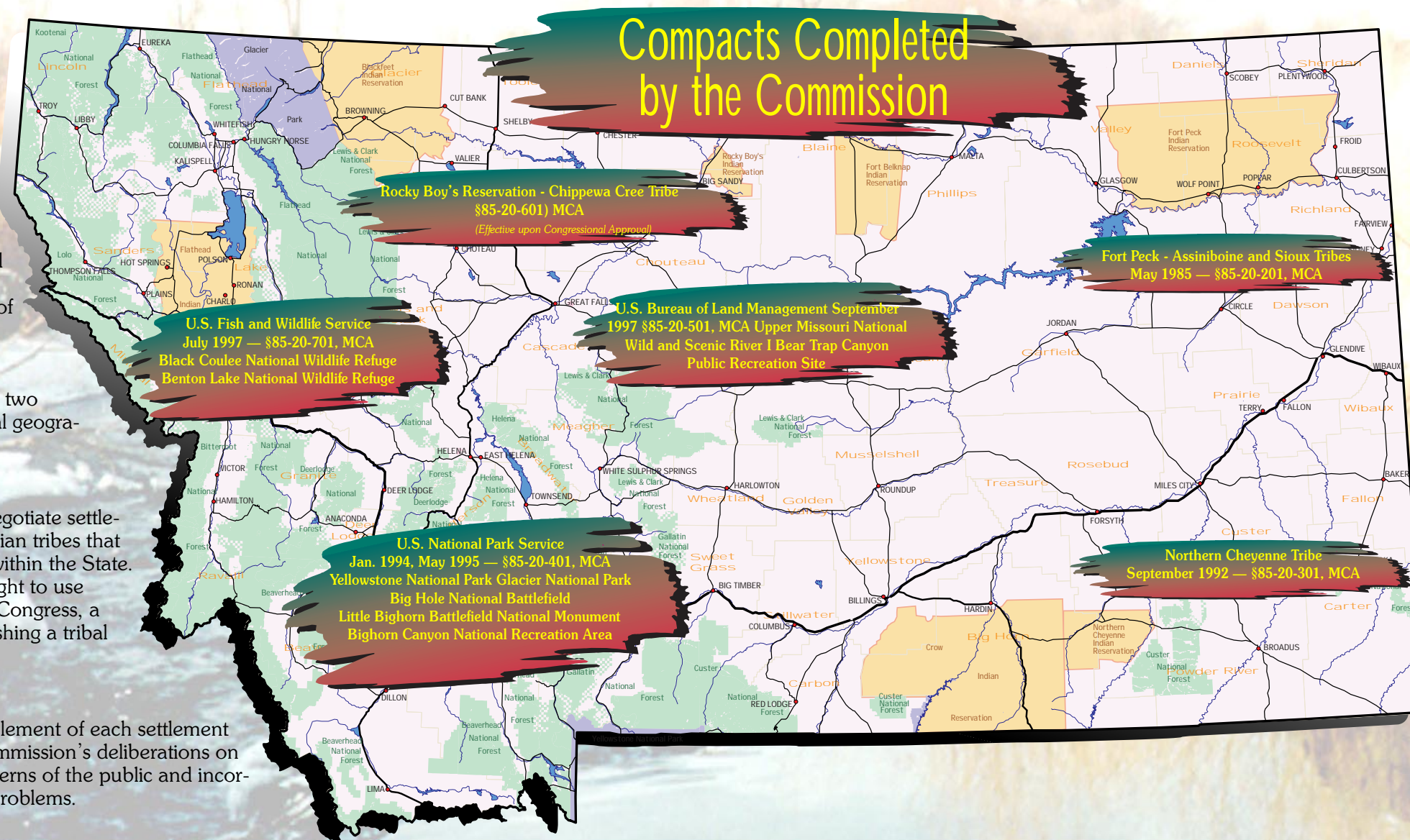
Montana's Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) was established by the Montana Legislature in 1979 as part of the statewide general stream adjudication process (§85-2-701, MCA). The Compact Commission is composed of nine members. Legal and historical research and technical analyses are prepared for the Commission by a multi-disciplinary staff of eleven professional and technical members which includes a program manager, two attorneys, a historical researcher, an agricultural engineer, two hydrologists, a soils scientist, a digital geographer, and two administrative staff.

## Federal Reserved Water Rights

The Commission is authorized to negotiate settlements with federal agencies and Indian tribes that claim federal reserved water rights within the State. A federal reserved water right is a right to use water that is implied from an act of Congress, a treaty, or an executive order establishing a tribal or federal reservation.

## Public Involvement

Citizen participation is an essential element of each settlement negotiation and insures that the Commission's deliberations on behalf of the State address the concerns of the public and incorporate local solutions to water use problems.



U.S. Bureau of Land Management Signing Ceremony  
September 10, 1997



U.S. National Park Service Signing Ceremony  
May 30, 1995



Rocky Boy's Signing Ceremony  
May 21, 1997



Rocky Boy's Signing Ceremony  
May 21, 1997



Northern Cheyenne Signing Ceremony  
June 11, 1991